

SERIAL  
STORYThe  
Isolated  
ContinentA Romance of the  
FutureBy  
Guido von Horvath  
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## SYNOPSIS.

For fifty years the continent of North America had been isolated from the rest of the world by the use of Z-rays, a wonderful invention of Hannibal Prudent. The invention had saved the country from foreign invasion, and the continent had been united under one government with Prudent as president. For half a century peace and prosperity reigned in this part of the world. The story opens with President Prudent critically ill. His death is hastened by the receipt of a message from Count von Wendenstein of Germany that he has at last succeeded in penetrating the rays. Dying, he warns his daughter Astra that this means a foreign invasion. He tells her to hurry to the island of Clynyth, but dies before he can tell the location of the place. Astra is nominated for the presidency by the continental party.

## CHAPTER III.

## The Ring.

Thursday afternoon at four o'clock the clay abode of the man whose death was mourned by the continent returned to ashes. The mournful procession started toward the crematorium from the chapel of the Crystal Palace. Gardens had been devastated to furnish flowers; the streets were carpeted with blooms. Immediately following the coffin rode his only relative, the daughter of Hannibal Prudent, in an open carriage.

Her pale face spoke of sleepless nights and many tears, but her eyes now were dry, her classic face calm and her carriage like that of a queen. And a queen she was, not by the right of birth or inheritance, but by the divine might that inhabited her superb body.

Astra's mind was dazed from the loss of sleep and the pomp of the funeral ceremony, and her nerves were well-nigh exhausted by the time she arrived at her crystal home. As she slowly mounted the steps her loss overwhelmed her; she had not fully realized it before. She went at once to her boudoir, locked the door and, throwing herself on a couch, sobbed bitterly. Her mind reverted to the past when the great man she had lost had played with the little girl of five years—with her; he was an old man even then; but oh, how dearly she had loved him.

Her meditations were terminated abruptly by the entrance of old John, who brought the card of Napoleon Edison. "I promised to receive him, did I not?"

"Indeed, madam," bowed the servant.

She thought for a moment.

"Take him to my father's library; I will see him there."

When Napoleon Edison entered the room he found Astra sitting before the broad desk. He stopped before her with a low bow.

"I have the honor to greet you, Miss Prudent."

The girl looked into the face of the tall, handsome man and saw in his large gray eyes an immeasurable courage. The strong, well-shaped nose curved over a pleasant mouth that softened the stern expression of the eyes. The high, broad forehead was shaded by dark brown hair. The broad shoulders and the sinewy, muscular form all gave evidence of strength, endurance and energy.

The girl did not answer for a few seconds; some strange power had cast its spell over her while she studied this man. She recognized him as the man who had talked so prophetically at the continentalists' meeting in the old Hippodrome.

"Good evening, Mr. Edison," she said at last in her low, pleasant voice. The man thought it the sweetest voice he had ever heard. Then she added: "Will you kindly be seated?"

The young man sat down without speaking, and Astra asked: "You wished to see me; may I ask you, sir, why?"

The expressive face of the young man showed a shade of disappointment as he replied quickly:

"I was under the impression that you expected me, madam, but it seems that I have been misled. However, I can tell my mission in a few words."

He rested his eyes on the girl's face and seemed still expectant, but the calm, beautiful face did not change. He continued:

"The main object of my call is this. He took a small jewel box from his pocket, and, opening it, placed it on the desk before Astra. Resting on the purple pad in the box was a sparkling white object, a small ring in the form of a spiral; one piece of scroll woven into a shape that formed the letter 'A' to take the place of the jewel.

No jewel decorated the ring; the material it was made of was more brilliant than diamonds; it sparkled in all the colors of the rainbow, notwithstanding its smooth surface.

Astra could not repress an exclamation of surprise: "Ah, how beautiful!"

She leaned over the desk, admiring the weaving colors.

Edison smiled slightly and waited until the girl was ready to turn from the dazzling ring to him. She took the ring in her hand and saw that it was as transparent, clear and colorless as crystal; without that sparkling effect it would have been invisible.

She slowly laid it down again and looked questioning at the man sitting before her. She did not know that while she was admiring the ring his eyes had rested on her yearningly, expressing love and admiration. Or was it adoration?

He smiled strangely at her and said: "If I read your questioning gaze aright, you want to know the meaning of my gift, a gift that I have brought from afar for the daughter of Hannibal Prudent." He placed a peculiar accent on the last four words.

"I thank you, sir, very much," she replied.

"It is a present for you, and through you to the whole American continent."

Astra's face expressed surprise.

"I will have to be more explicit. I will have to tell you more about it. May I ask you to let me have the ring for a moment?"

She handed it to Edison with a gracious movement of her slender hand. He took it from her, and, grasping it firmly with both hands, he pulled it apart; it yielded like rubber and jumped back to its former size when he released it. Then he let it drop on the polished desk; it sounded like glass.

"What do you think of that, Miss Prudent?"

"It is wonderful."

"Indeed it is, and more: It carries the solution of aerial navigation, making the aerial crafts as safe as your chair. It makes war on land or sea absolutely impossible. It strikes the word 'distance' from the dictionary. What do you think of it?"

Astra's face took on an expression full of faith and thankfulness; her eyes seemed to look far up to the power that moves worlds and creates new stars.

"You—you have come to our aid; peace and happiness will still reign over our continent. God has sent you to me in this trying moment."

Tear drops trembled on her long eyelashes like drops of dew on a flower.

When the moment of enthusiasm had passed they sat again calmly opposite to each other. This time Astra spoke:

"My dear Mr. Edison! You have not proved what you claim can be done, but the way you said it convinced me that you have the power to do it. In other words, I trust you and believe in you implicitly. Women know much by instinct, and my intuition has never led me astray."

"I recognized you at once as the man who spoke at the Continentalists' meeting, trying to encourage the masses and give them heart to brave approaching events."

"As you know, the Continentalists have nominated me because I was the daughter of the man who made this continent what it is today. Now that I have found a man who promises as great things as you do I shall not accept this nomination, but will insist upon you as a candidate."

Napoleon Edison shook his head with a smile.

"Miss Prudent, I appreciate what you say, but none must know about our present conversation. I have done nothing but give you a jewel. The other things remain to be proved."

Astra looked thoughtfully at the visitor and seemed to agree.

"Besides," continued Edison, "it is absolutely necessary that no one shall know what I can do. You will be elected and inaugurated the 4th of March this coming year. This is the 15th of September. The isolator now existing will last until the coming summer and you will hear from me between now and then; indeed, you can depend on me when the crucial

moment arrives. If you will permit me I will report whenever I can; that will not be often. I will supply you with information from time to time as to what is going on on the other side, and suggestions that you can use, if you desire, for defense, should it prove necessary."

Edison stopped for a second, bit his lip thoughtfully, then rose.

"I have finished my duty for the present. You don't know, Miss Prudent, how much I appreciate the fact that you look upon my intentions with approval, intuitively knowing that they are noble and the outgrowth of your father's teachings. I am sorry I came too late to tell him the good news—that war is destined to lose its foothold throughout the world."

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"I hope it will cease forever," interrupted Miss Prudent.

"The element that ring is made of will drive it from land and from sea, but carries it into the air."

"But if no one knows the secret?"

"There are no secrets, Miss Prudent; there are many things we don't know yet, but there are no secrets. Nature is an open book to those who can read and understand."

"Again you are right, Mr. Edison."

"Then, with your permission, I will go. I hope that the service I am offering to our continent will be accepted as freely as I am offering it."

"I can assure you of that, as the nominee for the presidential chair."

She offered her hand again and Napoleon Edison kissed it reverently. He bowed once more and started toward the door. Miss Prudent hesitated a moment—a question was on her lips—but she hesitated it was too late; the visitor was gone.

"Clynyth—Clynyth!" she sighed, more than uttered, and looked at the chair that had a short moment ago held that splendid man.

It seemed to her as though the stranger had carried away something—something?—what? She did not know. She sat down before the desk and taking the ring in her hand looked at it, and finally she slipped it on her finger. It fitted perfectly.

Then she looked at it more closely and saw some small tracings on it. She could not distinguish the lines with her unaided eyes, so took a magnifying glass and examined it curiously. A cry of joy left her lips as she deciphered the strange word "Clynyth."

By some coincidence Napoleon Edison, emerging from the portal, again encountered the man he had met three days before; the only difference was that this time he was leaving and Ambrosio Hale was coming.

The tall man with those ferret-like eyes, fox nose and brittle mustache was evidently surprised. As he passed the porter's gate he asked who the stranger was. The porter could not remember, but it was a name that made him think of Napoleon; whether it was Bonaparte or Caesar he could not recall.

Mr. Hale was received in the great room.

Astra had a peculiar dislike for the color, not in nature, but in furnishings and clothing, and generally received people she did not like in the green room. That room had a depressing effect on her mentality, and the people who visited her there soon left.

"I have come this time, my dear Astra, to congratulate you. I wanted to be the first. You are nominated by the continentalists, and there is no doubt but you will be elected; there is hardly any opposition on the continentalists' part. Whom could they set up against you, my dear Astra?"

He pressed the hand of the girl warmly. He knew that he had to win her love or he would never reach the goal he was longing for.

"I wish you would consider me your very best friend, my dear. Consult me any time you please. Your wisdom and judgment is great. The whole continent is looking at you as the deliverer; still, once in a while the word of an experienced statesman will help."

"Indeed, Mr. Hale, I assure you that if I ever need your kindly offered help I will call on you."

The intimate conversation did not last long, as other visitors arrived and the spoiled Ambrosio Hale's ardently longed for opportunity.

Before Astra fell asleep, she kissed the glittering ring on which the word Clynyth was faintly engraved.

That evening Napoleon Edison, accompanied by his short friend, sat in a compartment of the fourteen-hour Frisco limited, flying toward the West; the train that was shot through the tube by compressed air was so perfect that not a rumble was heard, or a quiver felt.

Napoleon Edison bent over an outspread plan showing an object of peculiar construction. His companion watched him for a while, then fell asleep. Edison looked at the fat man's nodding head, and turned the light lower, so that it fell only on his blueprints.

He sat studying those lines that ran straight, curved and oblique; they formed a picture that was not intended—the outlines, the details of a serene, strong face—Astra's.

The train shot steadily toward the Golden Gate.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Bound to Have His Joke.

Jokes about the slowness of trains, especially here in the south, said an Atlanta railway man, also tire me a bit by their ancientness; but I heard a new and good one not long ago. It seems that trains are always slow and far between on a branch line in Mississippi. Nobody knows this better than the people at the junction, except the people on the line itself. One day the newsdealer came to me grinning.

"A fellow from the other end of the line just said a funny thing," he remarked. "He had missed his train and there wasn't another for two hours. He came to my stall to buy some reading matter to while away the time. He asked for a joke book, and I didn't have any. Then he looked around for a while and said: 'Well, I guess I'll take a time table instead.'"

—Judge.

Huge Electric Furnaces.

It is expected that the electrical furnaces of the American Iron and Steel company, at Lebanon, Pa., will be in full operation in the course of a year. The furnaces will be of from 20 to 25 tons capacity, and be the largest plant of the kind in the country. There will also be standard blooming and billet mills, with an annual capacity of 80,000 tons.

Annual Flowering  
PlantsBy L. C. CORBETT  
Horticulturist, Bureau of Plant Industry  
U. S. Department of Agriculture

## CLARKIA

The clarkia is one of the prettiest hardy native annuals that come to us from beyond the Rocky mountains. It blooms freely, which characteristically, taken in connection with the variety and brightness of its flowers, makes a bed of them in full bloom an attractive



Clarkia.

slight. They are useful, too, for hanging baskets, for vases, as edging plants, for low massing, or for borders.

The seeds should be sown outdoors in early spring and the plants grown in partial shade. The clarkias thrive in a warm, light soil, and their period of bloom is midsummer and late autumn. The average height of the plant is 1½ feet.

## CORN-FLOWER

(Centaurea)

Centaurea Cyanus is also known as "bluebottle," "ragged sailor," "kaiser blumen," and sometimes as "bachelor's button." These bright-flowered plants are of a hardy nature, requiring simple culture, yet they are among the most attractive and graceful of all the old-fashioned flowers. When placed in water after cutting, the flowers increase in size. Seed of the annual sorts should be sown in the open in April or May and the young plants thinned to four to six inches apart.



Corn-Flower.

They thrive well on moderately rich garden soils. The perennials may be grown from seeds sown in gentle heat in March and planted out in May or June.

## SNAPDRAGON

(Antirrhinum)

The snapdragon is a valuable border plant. It flowers the first year from seed sown as an annual. The bright color and peculiar form of the flowers always attract attention. The newer sorts offer variety of colors and of markings. The spikes are useful for cutting and keep fresh a long time. From seed sown in the open ground in May plants will bloom in July or August. For early flowers the seed



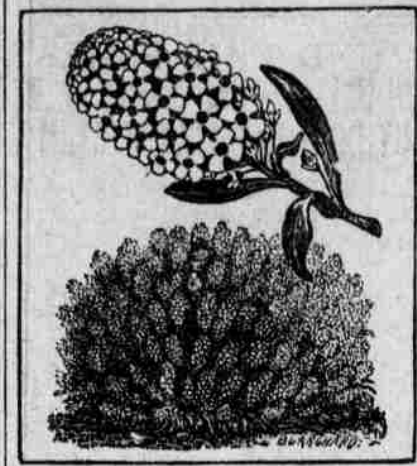
Snapdragon.

should be sown under glass in February or March and transplanted into beds of warm, dry soil moderately enriched. If protected by a cold frame or even a mulch of leaves the plants will winter well and bloom early the

following year. The snapdragon, like most perennials and biennials which bloom the first year, and of which a particular display is desired, should be treated like an annual and sown every year. The plant blooms freely and continually until frost, its average height being one and one-half feet.

## ALYSSUM

For borders, edgings, baskets, pots, rockwork, and for cutting, a liberal use of this dainty little flower is recommended. For borders, the seed



Alyssum.

should be sown thickly so as to form masses. For winter bloom, sow late in August and thin the seedlings so as to stand about four inches apart, but for spring bloom or for borders the seeds should be sown in the open early in the spring, or even late in the preceding autumn in some localities.

Where the plant will not endure the winter, however, early spring planting under cover, either in a cold frame or spent hotbed, or in boxes in a dwelling, is most to be relied upon. Alyssum can also be increased from cuttings made from strong new side shoots, as well as by division of the roots. By cutting back after the first flowers fade others will be produced. While white is the most common and popular color, there are yellow varieties of alyssum.

## CANDYTUFT

(Iberis)

The candytufts are among the best white flowers for edging beds, for planting in belts, beds, or massing, for



Candytuft.

rockeries, and for cutting. Several of the varieties are fragrant, and all are profuse bloomers. The seed should be sown outdoors in April where the plants are to bloom, and well thinned when they have grown about an inch high. Make a second planting a month later, and a third late in July for fall flowers. September sowings will give winter blooming plants. The soil for best results should be rich, and the plants given an abundance of water. They branch freely, and if some are removed the flowers will be larger.

## COSMOS

Cosmos is now one of the notable fall flowers. It is a strong, tall-growing annual, yet its bright, bold flowers have a daintiness and airiness which



Cosmos.

is heightened in effect by the feathery green foliage. It is most effective when planted in broad masses or long background borders against evergreens or fences at some distance from the house and the garden walks. From seed started in the house in March or April the plants will have reached three or four feet in height by September. The bright-colored, daisylike flowers are borne in great profusion and come at a season when they are very acceptable. Because of the robust habit of the plant the young seedlings should be thinned to 18 inches apart when grown on moderately good soil. Sowing the seed late and in poor soil will dwarf the plants. In latitude of Washington, D. C., the plants perpetuate themselves from self-sown seed. These volunteer plants can be taken advantage of for early bloom.

Experiments in oiling the streets of Denver, both asphalt and gravelled, are to be made next summer by the department of parks and improvements.

FOUR WEEKS  
IN HOSPITAL

No Relief—Mrs. Brown Finally Cured by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

Cleveland, Ohio.—"For years I suffered so sometimes it seemed as though I could not stand it any longer. It was all in my lower organs. At times I could hardly walk, for if I stepped on a little stone I would almost faint. One day I did faint and my husband was sent for and the doctor came. I was taken to the hospital and stayed four weeks but when I came home I would faint just the same and had the same pains."

A friend who is a nurse asked me to try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I began taking it that very day for I was suffering a great deal. It has already done me more good than the hospital. To anyone who is suffering as I was my advice is to stop in the first drug-store and get a bottle of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound before you go home."—Mrs. W. C. BROWN, 2844 W. 12th St., Cleveland, Ohio.

**One Drop**  
Bourbon Poultry Remedy  
Cures  
Gapes  
A few drops in the drinking water cures and prevents gapes, cholera, and other chick diseases. One drop kills the germs that cause gapes, cholera, and other chick diseases. Buy at all drug stores, or by mail postpaid. Write for free literature. Bourbon Remedy Co., Box 30, Lexington, Ky.

**LUMBER** of all kinds bought and sold. If you have any to sell or want to purchase, write, giving particulars. G. Elias & Bro., Job Dept., Buffalo, N. Y.

**PATENTS** Watson E. Coleman, Washington, D. C. Books free. Highest references. Best results.

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA FARMS** Cheap. Productive land near good markets. Write me your wants. E. N. WERN, HERRON, VA.

**Diplomatic.**

Blunder—I say, who is that fat, homely, coarse-featured woman sitting over there?

Daggett—That, sir, is my wife!

Blunder—So it is; so it is. Stupid of me. Thought for a moment it was mine.

**LIFT YOUR CORNS OFF WITH FINGERS**  
How to loosen a tender corn or callus so it lifts out without pain.

Let folks step on your feet hereafter; wear shoes a size smaller if you like, for corns will never again send electric sparks of pain through you, according to this Cincinnati authority.

He says that a few drops of a drug called freezone, applied directly upon a tender, aching corn, instantly relieves soreness, and soon the entire corn, root and all, lifts right out.

This drug dries at once and simply shrivels up the corn or callus without even irritating the surrounding skin.

A small bottle of freezone obtained at any drug store will cost very little but will positively remove every hard or soft corn or callus from one's feet.

If your druggist hasn't stocked this new drug yet, tell him to get a small bottle of freezone for you from his wholesale drug house.—adv.

**Back to Eve's Style.**

"Mother Eve wore fig leaves."

"Just so," responded the modiste.

"And I have always thought something chic could be turned out along these lines today."

When you have decided that the Worms or Tapeworm which live in your system must be exterminated, get "Dead Shot," Dr. Peery's Vermifuge, and you will find that one dose will expel them. Adv.

**Heroes of the Home.**

Nor should the hero medal be withheld from the man who totes the screens down from the attic and sheds gore and perspiration in making them fit.—Minneapolis Tribune.

**HEAL ITCHING SKINS**

With Cuticura Soap and Ointment—They Heal When Others Fail.

Nothing better, quicker, safer, sweeter for skin troubles of young and old that itch, burn, crust, scale, torture or disfigure. Once used always used because these super-creamy emollients tend to prevent little skin troubles becoming serious, if used daily.

Free sample each by mail with Book. Address postcard, Cuticura, Dept. L, Boston. Sold everywhere.—Adv.

**Indefinite.**

"My husband is always in the clouds."

"Is he a dreamer or an aeronaut?"

**She Annexed Them.**

"What possessed Edith to marry that old codger?"

"His possessions."

**Sore Eyes**

Granulated Eyelids, Eyes inflamed by exposure to Sun, Dust and Wind quickly relieved by Murine Eye Remedy. No Smarting, just Eye Comfort. At Druggists or by mail 50c per Bottle. Murine Eye Salve in Tubes 25c. For Book of the Eye FREE ask Murine Eye Remedy Co., Chicago